Pension to 1965 and 1971 war-widows

*351. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:
SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the women widowed during the 1965 and 1971 wars have petitioned against the discriminatory pension rules as reported in the Times of India dated 13th July, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to remove various anomalies in the pension rules and provide other facilities to war widows; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) Some petitions have been received requesting for rationalization of Liberalised Special Family Pension in respect of war widows of pre 1.1.1996 cases of Armed Forces personnel. The demand of the war-widows of 1965 and 1971 wars relates to modified parity in pensionary benefits given to pre 1996 war widows. Their demand is that the liberalized family pension and other benefits granted to war widows remarried after 1.1.1996 should also be granted to widows remarried before 1.1.1996.

2. The war widows are entitled to liberalized family pension at the rate of last pay drawn by the deceased at the time of his death. In pursuance of the recommendation of the Fifth Pay Commission, the liberalized family pension of war widows prior to 1.1.1996 has also been revised to the minimum of the new pay scale introduced w.e.f. 1.1.1996 provided their consolidated liberalized family pension is not more than the minimum of the new pay scale.

3. The demand of the 1965 and 1971 war-widows who got remarried prior to 1.1.1996, is for extending to them the benefits of liberalized family pension given to the widows who got remarried after 1.1.1996. According to the orders in force before 1.1.1996, the liberalized family pension granted to a war-widow was converted into ordinary family pension from the date following the date of her remarriage except in case of remarriage with real brother of the deceased personnel. This order has been modified to provide

that the war-widows remarrying after 1.1.1996 can continue to draw liberalized family pension provided they continue to support children after remarriage. If, they do not support children after remarriage they are allowed ordinary family pension and balance pension is transferred to children. The revised orders have prospective effect from 1.1.1996.

No further liberalization in this regard is envisaged.

Small Hydro-electric projects

*352. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the local people are being involved in the operation and maintenance of the small hydro-electricity projects in different States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how many MW of electricity is being produced in the small hydro-electricity projects nationally?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In 63 decentralized small size hydro-power projects set up in the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Uttaranchal and West Bengal local people have been involved in the operation and maintenance of these projects. The State-wise details are as follows:

Sl.No.	State	No. of Projects	Aggregate Capacity
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	4	20 KW
2.	Bihar	5	50 KW
3.	Himachal Pradesh	15	200 KW
4.	Jammu & Kashmir	5	25 KW
5.	Uttaranchal	29	1792 KW
6.	West Bengal	5	50 KW